

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing mailpieces comprising:

(a) detecting information present on at least one surface of a mailpiece and applying a machine-readable identification code onto the mailpieces at a sorting station;

(b) transmitting the detected information and an appertaining identification code to an interface computer and storing the detected information and the appertaining pertinent identification code;

(c) accessing the stored information and the stored identification code and determining address information on the basis of the detected and stored information;

(d) comparing the detected address information with address information present in a database;

(e) associating the detected address information with new address information on the basis of the comparison that has been carried out;

(f) transmitting the associated new address information and the appertaining identification code to the interface computer;

(g) detecting the identification code applied onto the mailpieces and applying the new address information onto the mailpiece, ~~whereby~~ wherein the new address information is derived from the information read from the mailpiece and is applied as a function of the identification code.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising processing the mailpieces according to a two-stage process, comprising preliminarily sorting the mailpieces and, separately, sorting the mailpieces into smaller units, and detecting the information present on the surface of the mailpiece and converting the address information present on the mailpiece into the new address information during the preliminary sorting.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising ascertaining whether the detected address information contains a first postal code, and converting the first postal code into a postal code that matches the new address information.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising applying the new address information onto the mailpiece in coded form.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the address information comprises a barcode.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the address information at least partially in plain text.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising carrying out one of the preliminary sorting and the sorting the mailpieces into smaller units as a function of the new address information.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising transporting the mailpieces at least over a segment as a function of the new address information.

9. (Currently Amended) A device for processing mailpieces comprising:

a) a device that detects information present on at least one surface of the mailpieces and a printer to apply a machine-readable identification code onto the mailpieces;

b) an interface computer comprising memory for storing the detected information;

c) processing stations comprising a processor that accesses the stored detected information and the appertaining stored identification codes, and the processor determines address information on the basis of the stored detected information;

d) a database comprising address information and a comparison unit that compares the detected address information with address information present in the database,

e) a processor that associates the detected address information with new address information on the basis of a comparison of the detected address information with the address information that is present in the database;

f) a transmitter that transmits the new address information and the identification code from the processing stations to the interface computer; and,

g) a device that detects the identification code applied onto the mailpieces and a device that applies the new address information onto the mailpiece as a function of the identification code,

wherein the new address information is derived from the information read from the mailpiece.

10. (New) The device for processing mailpieces of claim 9,

wherein the device that detects information present on at least one surface of the mailpieces and the printer that applies a machine-readable identification code onto the mailpieces are both located at a sorting station.